

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026
PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

7. Local survey organization

8. property owners name and address

9. tax parcel number/other number

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
N.R.

10. U.T.M. Zone easting
 usgs sheet: northing

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building () district ()

13. date(s) (how determined)
 14. period 1850/1894

15. style, design or folk type
 Vernacular

19. original use School
 20. present use Com/Vac

16. architect or engineer
 -

17. contractor or builder
 -

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Brick

21. condition Fair
 22. integrity Good

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation

25. file/location

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)
 (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background
 USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING
 (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date revision(s)

31. county _____ 32. style _____
 33. construction material _____ 34. roof _____
 35. design type _____
 36. historic function _____
 37. construction feature _____ 38. ext. walls _____ 39. plan _____
 40. facade width _____ 41. roof material _____ 42. stories _____ 43. depth _____
 44. ext. design _____
 45. int. design _____

1. County Phila
 2. municipality Phila
 3. street address or specific location Pine & Quince Sts
 4. survey code
 5. present name
 6. other name (historic name if any) RANSEY, J. Sylvester School

Ramsey School

Physical Description

Three story, 5 bay gable roofed brick building with later fire tower. Although built in 1850, the school continues in the vernacular Greek Revival mode, recalling "red brick schoolhouse" of the first decades of the nineteenth century. Detailing begins with a marble water table capped by a marble belt course. Marble steps lead to the main entrance, a single leaf door with transom, obscured by later alterations. Fenestration follows a regular pattern of large 12 over 12 double hung sash with marble sills. Several first floor windows on the side elevation are sealed with concrete block. A semi-circular datestone embellishes the gable end. Two small end chimneys project from the roofline at the building's easternmost elevation. A four story brick addition projects from the rear of the building. Windows in this section are smaller, than the original portion of the building, and feature double hung sash with stone lintels and sills.

A later, three story fire tower with marble watertable projects from the main elevation. A single window opening with arched surround pierces the plane of the tower at the third floor level. Although the original sash is missing, the window features a marble sill. Brick corbelling embellishes the cornice of the hip roofed tower. A hip roofed vented cupola caps the tower.

Statement of Significance

Built in 1850, with later alterations dating from 1894, the Ramsey School stands as a rare example of Sloan-influenced school design. A prominent Philadelphia architect, Samuel Sloan was the author of the "Philadelphia Plan", a floor plan and design approach which first addressed such issues as adequate lighting, ventilation and circulation in school design. The plan, reflecting the concerns of school reformers, was the result of a study of other city schools which Sloan conducted in 1850 under commission by Philadelphia's School District Board of Governors. Sloan went on to design some 21 school buildings in Philadelphia, between 1851-1854 only one of which, the Jacobs School is known to survive.

Constructed on the eve of Sloan's association with the School Board the Ramsey School reflects this move toward more spacious, well-lit classroom space. A fire tower, added in 1894, provided additional safety measures.

Subsequently used as a warehouse for the School Board, a trades school for girls, and a school administrative building, the structure retains much of its original modest "red brick schoolhouse" character.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
 BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026
 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

7. Local survey organization

8. property owners name and address

Fidelity Bank c/o Kerry M. Deegan (exact)
 Broad and Walnut Streets
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

9. tax parcel number/other number

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

N.R.

10. U.T.M. Zone Easting
 18 486300

usgs sheet: Philadelphia
 44214210
 northing

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building () district ()
 thematic

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1850

14. period

15. style, design or folk type

vernacular

19. original use school

20. present use comm/vac

16. architect or engineer

17. contractor or builder

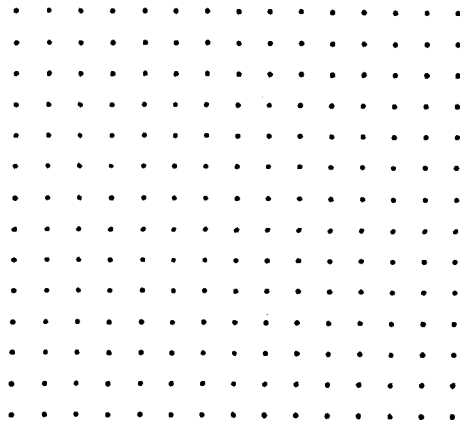
18. primary building mat./construc.

brick

21. condition fair

22. integrity good

23. site plan with north arrow



BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)
 3 1/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact
 note location of negative in block 24.

24. photo notation

25. file/location

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)

NPS counting purposes: one contributing building

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

see bibliography for nomination

(continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:

B. Mintz

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date revision(s)

7/1986

31. county _____ 32. style _____; _____; _____; _____

32. construction material _____; _____; _____; _____ 34. roof _____; _____; _____

35. design type _____; _____; _____

36. historic function _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____

37. construction feature _____; _____; _____; 38. ext. walls _____; 39. plan _____

40. facade width _____ 41. roof material _____ 42. stories _____ 43. depth _____

44. ext. design _____; _____; _____; _____; _____

45. int. design _____; _____; _____; _____; _____

1. County PHILADELPHIA
 2. municipality PHILADELPHIA
 3. street address or specific location PINE AND QUINCE STREETS
 4. survey code
 5. present name SAME
 6. other name (historic name if any) J. SYLVESTER RAMSEY SCHOOL

J. Sylvester Ramsey School

This building is a classical style three story, five bay gable roofed brick structure with later fire tower. Although built in 1850, the school continues in the vernacular Greek Revival mode, recalling the "red brick schoolhouse" of the first decades of the nineteenth century. The building's detailing begins with a marble water table capped by a marble belt course. Marble steps lead to the main entrance, a single leaf door with transom, obscured by later alterations. The fenestration follows a regular pattern of large 12 over 12 double hung sash with marble sills. Several first floor windows on the side elevation are sealed with concrete block. A semi-circular datestone embellishes the gable end. Two small end chimneys project from the roofline at the building's easternmost elevation. A four story brick addition projects from the rear of the building. The windows in this section are smaller, than the original portion of the building, and feature double hung sash with stone lintels and sills.

A later, three story fire tower with marble water table projects from the main elevation. A single window opening with arched surround pierces the plane of the tower at the third floor level. Although the original sash is missing, the window features a marble sill. Brick corbelling embellishes the cornice of the hip roofed tower. A hip roofed cupola caps the tower.

Statement of Significance

The J. Sylvester Ramsey School, constructed in 1850, is one of the last schools built during the first period of Philadelphia public school development, 1818-1850. During this period, a decentralized school system consisting of seven school boards scattered through Philadelphia County erected small schools to serve local neighborhoods. The school boards built utilitarian structures without much architectural adornment.

In its utilitarian design, the Ramsey School is fairly typical of schools erected between 1818 and 1850. However, the large windows on each floor foreshadow the large windows advocated by Samuel Sloan. Such large windows became a standard feature in later nineteenth century schools. An 1894 fire tower also shows the influence of later changes in public school design.

Thus the Ramsey School is important as a representative of the first period of public school development in Philadelphia, as well as incorporating features that became standard in later Philadelphia public schools.

area of significance: architecture

verbal boundary description

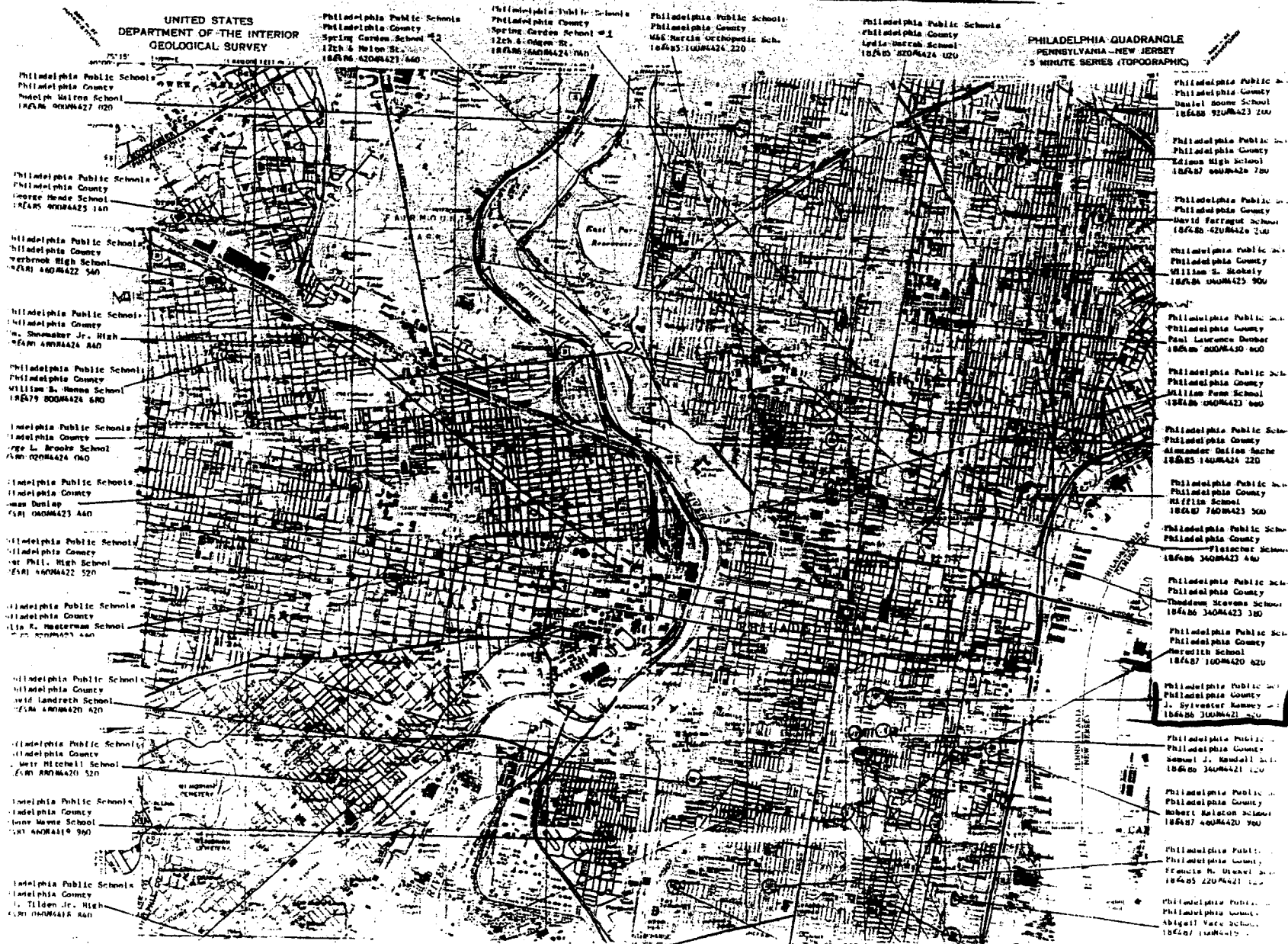
The nominated property consists of Philadelphia County lot 053020400 which contains the school and its contiguous grounds.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PHILADELPHIA QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA-NEW JERSEY
5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #2
12th & Nelson St.
186486 4204423 460

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Spring Garden School #1
12th & Odgers St.
186486 4204424 060

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
WAS. Burdick Orthopedic Sch.
186485 1004424 220

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Lyle-Harral School
186485 2204424 120

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Madolph Wilson School
186486 0004427 020

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George Wende School
186485 0004425 140

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Lybrook High School
186486 4604422 540

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
W. Shewmaker Jr. High
186486 4004424 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William S. Rennie School
186479 8004424 600

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
George L. Brooks School
186486 0204424 040

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
James Dunlap
186486 0404423 440

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
West Hill High School
186486 4604422 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Miss K. Waterman School
186486 0004423 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Miss Landreth School
186486 4004420 420

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
West Mitchell School
186486 0004420 520

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Mary Wemyss School
186486 0004419 960

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
W. Tilden Jr. High
186486 0004418 840

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Daniel Boone School
186486 9204423 200

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Edison High School
186487 0004426 700

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
David Farragut School
186486 4204426 240

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William Penn School
186486 0004425 900

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Paul Laurence Dunbar
186486 0004430 800

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William Penn School
186486 0004423 600

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Alexander Graham Bache
186485 1404426 220

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
William Schuylkill
186487 7404423 300

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Fletcher School
186486 3404423 400

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Thaddeus Stevens School
186486 3404423 100

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Herodith School
186487 1004420 020

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
J. Sylvester Kenney
186486 3004421 020

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Samuel J. Randall School
186486 3004421 120

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Robert Latson School
186487 4004420 700

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Francis M. Uxwell School
186485 2204421 100

Philadelphia Public Schools
Philadelphia County
Abigail Vaux School
186487 1404421 150